DRAGONAR
ACADEMY
7
ART BY
RAN
STORY BY
SHIKI MIZUCHI

CAN... CAN THAT...
REALLY BE ECO...?
RRRUUORRR

Chapter
XXXI
The Imperial Princess of Avalon

Chapter
XXXI
The Imperial Princess of Avalon

THAT'S...
A MONSTER.
ECO...
OH --!
I-I'M SORRY, ASH.
BUT...
IS THAT THING REALLY ECO?
I DON'T HAVE WORDS FOR WHAT I SENSE EMANATING FROM IT...!

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ACADEMY
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ART
RAN
STORY
SHIKI MIZUCHI
CHARACTER DESIGN
KOHADA SHIMESABA

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

DRAGONAR ACADEMY VOLUME 7

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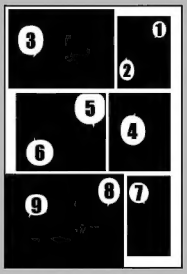
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from ***right to left***, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



Dragonar Academy
Cast of Characters

A first-year Senios (upperclassman) at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy. He has the gift of riding any dragon. He's partnered with the young dragon Eco.

Despite her appearance, Eco is a dragon--and Ash's Steed! She's young and inexperienced, but was still able to craft an Ark for him.

The fourth princess of the Knightdom of Lautreamont. Known as the Ice Blue Princess, she is partnered to the Maestro dragon Lancelot.

The first princess of the Knightdom of Lautreamont, and Sylvia's oldest sister. A mighty hero known as the Iron-Blooded Valkyrie, she blithely trades on her status as an undefeated, unparalleled warrior to do as she pleases.

A third-year Yunios at Ansullivan Dragonar Academy, and a member of the warrior tribe of Ekblatt. She stopped attending classes when her dragon stopped permitting her to ride him.

A mysterious entity who appears in the Dragon's Workshop, a shared space constructed by the Holy Dragons long ago. Navi helps Eco build an Ark, and has been appearing in Ash's dreams.

An unfamiliar presence that has manifested to Eco and Navi. Its aura is both ominous and somehow reminiscent of Eco herself...

A soldier from the Zepharos Empire, Milgauss attacked Ash during the Dragonar Festival of Aries. His true identity and motivations are shrouded in mystery.

A girl who works alongside Milgauss. As an operative for the Empire's intelligence service, she is currently undercover in the knightdom.

Ansullivan Dragonar Academy: a school for boys and girls who've made pacts with dragons! Ash Blake is a student at the academy, but he's an embarrassment to the school--even though he has a Star Mark (the symbol of his pact), his dragon has yet to be born.
While Ash was participating in the Dragonar Festival of Aries, he was attacked and nearly killed by a man who seemed to be an imperial soldier. With Ash moments away from death, his Steed finally awakens. However, unlike all the other students' Steeds, Ash's dragon, who he names Eco, has the shape of a young human girl.
"YOU ARE NOT MY KEEPER! I AM YOUR KEEPER!!!"
SMILE
Ash and Eco try to settle into daily life together, but their efforts are thwarted when the town is attacked by a Necromancia! Ash, armored by the Ark Eco created for him and wielding the holy blade Aix-les-Bains, is able to counter the Necromancia's assault and protect Ansullivan!
SWOOM
DRAGONAR ACADEMY
THE STORY SO FAR

After returning to the academy, Ash and Eco are summoned by Sylvia's father--the Paladin Oswald, king of the knightdom! Once they reach the capital city, Fontaine, which is abuzz with excitement over the upcoming Elysium, they have an audience with Oswald...and the title of Dragonar is bestowed upon Ash!

Thanks to Eco and Navi's efforts, Ash is given a new Ark. Between his own strong will and his friends' strength, he's able to force Milgauss to retreat. In the process, the bond between Lucca and Gawain is re-established.

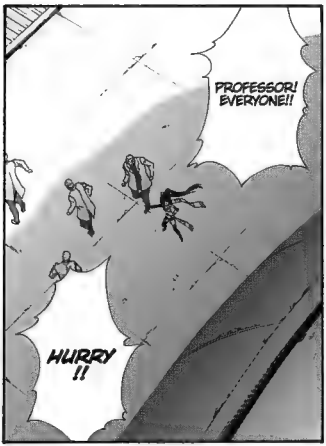
Ash and his friends leave the academy's invitational training camp and head to Willingham Mausoleum to save Lucca's dragon, Gawain. But upon arriving, they find themselves face to face with Milgauss and Nuaza, a maestro dragon who has been transformed into a Necromancia.

But then Eco is taken by the Empire, whose agents begin experimenting on her using a device called the Yggdrasil. While at their mercy, Eco finally awakens into her dragon form--a gargantuan creature that fills the sky...

星刻の竜騎士

I'VE SPENT SO MUCH OF MY LIFE AROUND DRAGONS, AND KNOW THEM SO WELL, BUT THIS IS BEYOND ME.

RIGHT NOW, ALL I CAN THINK IS, "IS THAT A GOD OR A DEMON?!"



KA-BOOOM
!!

THAT CREATURE IS UNBELIEVABLE!
DESTROYING A WARSHIP OF THAT SIZE SO EASILY...!
AND THAT SHIP IS---
OHHH, NO! WOE IS ME!!
YOU ALL SAW IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES!
OH...
WE'VE ALL JUST WITNESSED ONE OF THE KNIGHTDOM'S DRAGONS REDUCING THE EMPIRE'S MOST GLORIOUS, MAGNIFICENT WARSHIP TO SO MUCH SCRAP METAL!
A CATASTROPHE OF SUCH MAGNITUDE...!
TCH! SO KLAUS VIDERHAUSEN WANTS TO...
STIR UP TROUBLE, DOES HE?

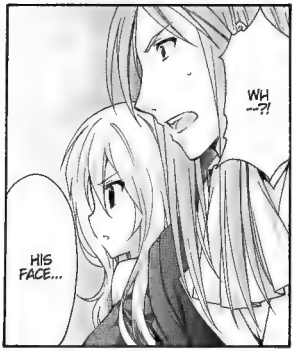
NOW, NOW, YOUR MAJESTY!
THAT'S QUITE A CLAIM! ARE YOU SAYING THERE'S A NATION OTHER THAN YOURS THAT PRIDES ITSELF ON ITS MASTERY OF SUCH BEASTS? SOME OTHER COUNTRY THAT COULD CAUSE THIS DISASTER?
YOU'RE MISTAKEN! OUR NATION HAS NEVER SEEN A DRAGON LIKE THIS BEFORE!
PLEASE BELIEVE ME!!
YOU'VE STAGED QUITE THE FARCE--
SO THIS IS WHY THE EMPIRE WOULDN'T SEND ANY MEMBERS OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY, MUCH LESS THE EMPEROR!
B-BUT --!
WITH ALL THESE WITNESS-ES...
MY FATHER'S PROTESTS ARE USE-LESS.
THEY ENGINEERED THIS ENTIRE SITUATION!
PRIN-CESS !!!
?!

URK --!
EEEEEEK!
ZOOOOOO!!!
DRIP...
HA HA...
S-SOMEONE HELP!!
DASH
AH! YOUR MAJES-TY!!
EMPTY
HMPH!

WELL, THAT WAS A PATHETIC DISPLAY FROM OUR PALADIN, WASN'T IT?
CRACK
NOW, TELL ME, GLENN...
IF I WERE TO BURY MY BLADE IN THAT CRIMSON EYE...
CLINK
DO YOU SUPPOSE THAT WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE THING?
I'M AFRAID THAT...
NOT EVEN YOU CAN SLAY IT SINGLE-HANDEDLY, PRINCESS.
THOSE RED EYES PUT ME IN MIND OF A NEWBORN BABE.
HMPH!
HONEST TO A FAULT.
I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT I'VE SEEN THOSE EYES BEFORE, BUT... WHERE?

A GUEST STILL REMAINS!
FOR NOW, WE SHOULD WITHDRAW.
NOT WHILE...
BUT THAT'S ---!
YOU.
JUDGING BY YOUR LOOKS AND MASK...
YOU MUST BE MILGAUSS. I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU.
AND AS I WAS TOLD, YOU LOOK MUCH LIKE JULIUS.
SHOW ME WHAT'S UNDER THAT MASK!
SHEFF
.....

ARE...
ARE YOU JULIUS? HAVE YOU BEEN---?!
IT CAN'T BE...!


HIS FACE...
WH---?!

YOU CAN'T BEGIN TO FATHOM HOW LONG I'VE WAITED FOR THIS!!
HEH...
HA HA HA!
I SUPPOSE I OUGHT TO EXCLAIM OVER HOW LONG IT'S BEEN.
WHAT? EXPLAIN YOURSELF!
GLENN MCGUIRE, IS IT?
JULIUS'S BELOVED FRIEND?
YOU... YOU'RE NOT HIM! YOU CAN'T BE!
MY FRIEND COULD NEVER HAVE LAUGHED THAT WAY!

AS HE SAYS, THIS BODY ONCE BELONGED TO JULIUS.
BUT MY SOUL IS QUITE ANOTHER MATTER!
FLING
FALL TO YOUR KNEES...
AND HEED MY WORDS!!
FLASH
YOU ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF THE SCION OF NEHALENNIA, THE ROYAL HOUSE OF THE DARK DRAGONS!!
I AM MORDRED !!!

!!
AH, YOU REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE STEED JULIUS FORFEITED HIS OWN LIFE TO SLAY.
SUCH MALEVOLENCE...!
MORDRED?! THAT'S PREPOSTEROUS!
I DARESAY YOU'RE QUITE SURPRISED.
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO JULIUS'S BODY...?!
DODGE
RELEASE HIS BODY!!!
SO YOU'RE TO BLAME FOR ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED?
GRIT
GRAB
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM...?!

I DO NOT RECALL...
AND YET...
I AM LIKE UNTO A GOD.
TUG
NGH ...!
CAN YOU FATHOM THE INSOLENCE THAT LED THAT SWINE TO MAKE AN ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE?
GAH --!
CRASH
DOING ANYTHING TO EARN SUCH HATRED FROM A MERE MORTAL!!!

THE MORDRED JULIUS LOVED WAS A FOOL...
AND NOTHING BUT A FRAGMENT OF ME.
YOU ONCE PRESENTED JULIUS WITH AN ARK!
BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GIVE AN ARK IF THE BOND IT SYMBOLIZES ISN'T REAL!
CLANK
TCH!
NON-SENSE!
THEN EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO ME, "DARK DRAGON KING," OR WHATEVER.
HMPH! I'LL SATISFY YOUR CURIOSITY, AND YOU CAN TAKE THE KNOWLEDGE TO YOUR GRAVE.
WHAT ...?
YOU HUMANS MIGHT EQUATE IT TO A SPLIT PERSON-ALITY.
AND THAT OTHER PART OF ME WAS FOOL ENOUGH TO ACCEPT JULIUS AS MASTER.
HARBORED NOT ONE BUT TWO SOULS!
MORDRED'S PHYSICAL BODY...

OH, BUT I FORGOT.
YOU ALREADY KNOW THIS TALE, DON'T YOU, PRINCESS VERONICA?
AND WORSE, MASTER AND STEED COLLUDED...
TO PUT AN END TO ME!
PRIN-CESS ...?
.....
CONTINUE.
SO WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT OTHER "FRAGMENT" AFTER THAT?
AND WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

FLING
AND NOW...
MY OTHER SELF PERISHED ALONG WITH THE PHYSICAL BODY.
BUT I SURVIVED!
I USED THE ETHEREAL BODY WITH WHICH I WAS LEFT TO POSSESS JULIUS'S FLESH INSTEAD!
SO THAT'S YOUR GOAL...?
AVALON AND NEHALENNIA... THE IMPERIAL FAMILY OF THE HOLY DRAGONS AND THE ROYAL FAMILY OF THE DARK DRAGONS.
I WILL LIKEWISE CLAIM THE BODY OF...
ACCORDING TO THE BOOK PROFESSOR ANGELA CORNWELL DISCOVERED--- THE TESTAMENT OF THE STARS...
THE TWO GREAT LINEAGES ARE LOCKED INTO ENDLESS BATTLE, REINCARNATED TO OPPOSE EACH OTHER OVER AND OVER.
THE SCION OF AVALON, THE IMPERIAL FAMILY OF THE HOLY DRAGONS!!

SHIINK
IT'S TRUE THAT JULIUS WAS A FOOL!!
BUT I WON'T LET YOU WASTE HIS SACRIFICE AND CONVICTION!!!
SO BY CLAIMING THE BODY OF YOUR NEMESIS...
YOU INTEND TO BOTH RESURRECT YOURSELF AND OBLITERATE YOUR ETERNAL ENEMY'S LINE IN ONE SWOOP!
FWOOOO
S-SUCH DARKNESS...
IT'S... TRANSPORTING MY CONSCIOUSNESS SOMEHOW...!
WHAT A GOOD SISTER YOU ARE.
BILLOW
AND YET...
I DOUBT EVEN YOU WOULD BE CAPABLE OF STRIKING JULIUS'S BODY DOWN.
BUT NOT TO WORRY. THIS WILL ALL BE OVER SOON.

NNNH ...!
THAT BASTARD'S VOICE IS GETTING FARTHER AND FARTHER AWAY...

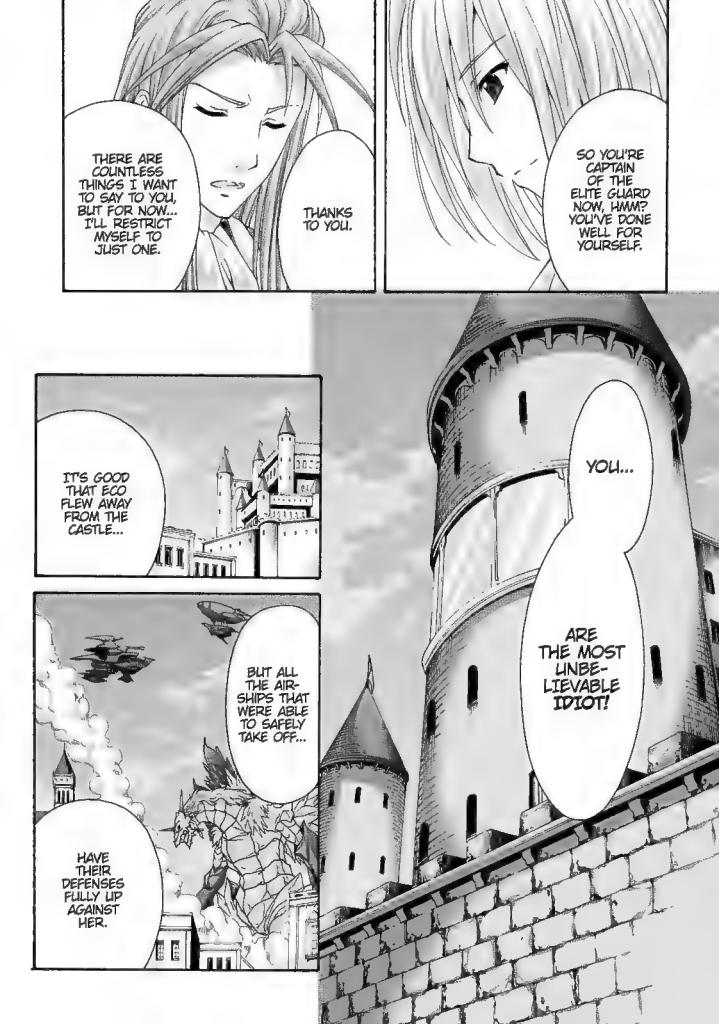
JULIUS...
YOU WERE WILLING TO LET YOUR NAME BE CURSED FOREVER TO DESTROY THIS THING.
I WISH I COULD HAVE LANDED THE FINISHING BLOW IN YOUR STEAD...

VERONICA?
WHO ...?

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, VERONICA?
.....

THE MALEVOLENCE I SENSED EARLIER... IS GONE...?
AH, YES.
YOU NEVER CALLED ME ANYTHING BUT MY NAME, DID YOU, SISTER?
JULIUS...? IS THAT YOU?
OF COURSE NOT...
YOU IDIOT.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A SIBLING SQUABBLE.
MORDRED'S SOUL HAS LEFT ME IN ORDER TO POSSESS ECO.
WHA--?!
ECO?! THAT MONSTROUS DRAGON IS--?!

I'LL FILL YOU IN LATER. FOR NOW, CAN YOU STAND?
STAGGER
NNNH...
WH- WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE... ADDRESS--
NGH ...!
DIZZIA
VERO --?!
CATCH
.....
YOU'RE RIGHT.
I GUESS SHE DOESN'T NEED ME TO LEND A HAND, DOES SHE?
SHE DOESN'T.


SO YOU'RE CAPTAIN OF THE ELITE GUARD NOW, HMM? YOU'VE DONE WELL FOR YOURSELF.
THANKS TO YOU.
THERE ARE COUNTLESS THINGS I WANT TO SAY TO YOU, BUT FOR NOW... I'LL RESTRICT MYSELF TO JUST ONE.
YOU...
ARE THE MOST UNBE-LIEVABLE IDIOT!
IT'S GOOD THAT ECO FLEW AWAY FROM THE CASTLE...
BUT ALL THE AIR-SHIPS THAT WERE ABLE TO SAFELY TAKE OFF...
HAVE THEIR DEFENSES FULLY UP AGAINST HER.

MY STAR MARK HEATS UP, BUT... NOTHING.
IT'S NOT WORK-ING!
HMM...
CAN YOU REACH HER AT ALL, ASH?!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
RIGHT NOW, EVERYONE AROUND ECO IS HER ENEMY--
THIS IS BAD. IF MY SISTER AND THE SILVANUS TAKE TO THE AIR...
STAGGER
I'M RIGHT HERE, AREN'T I?!
SHE'S MY STEED, AND I'M GONNA PROTECT HER!
IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE SHE'LL JOIN THE ATTACK AGAINST ECO TO PROTECT THE CITY.

I KNOW BOTH YOU AND ECO, REMEMBER?
PRIN-CESS...!
I'LL STAND BY YOU TWO.
I'M HERE, AND...
ASH...
I'M HERE TOO.
AT THE MOMENT, EVEN MY LANCELOT IS UP THERE CIRCLING WITH THE OTHER MAESTROS.
UH...
NOT A BAD THEORY, BUT HOW?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT! I'M HER MASTER, SO ALL I HAVE TO DO IS SHOW EVERYONE THAT I CAN RIDE HER, RIGHT?
BUT FIGURING OUT HOW TO PROTECT ECO IS STILL A PROBLEM.

TWILING
!!
SHUDDER
HUH ...?
WHAT DID I JUST FEEL?
TING

WHO IS THAT ...?!
ROOOOAAAR!
ASH!!
LOOK AT ECO!!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?! SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN PAIN---!!
SHKK
LOOK! THE COLOR OF HER RUFF IS---!!

SHHHKK
GRRL
HER BODY IS...
CRACK
CRACK
TURNING BLACK ?!!

NINE EYES ...?!!
RRRRUUURR
WHAT'S HAP-PENING TO YOU, ECO?!

星刻の竜騎士

Chapter
XXXII
Steed

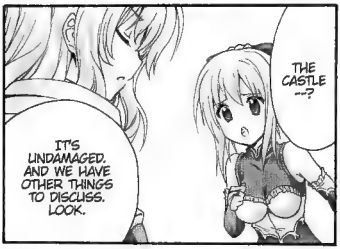
THE DRAGON'S WORKSHOP.
GRACIOUS.
I DON'T RECALL SUMMONING YOU...
DARK KING MORDRED.
HEH...
THAT'S RIGHT, NAVI. TALK BIG WHILE YOU STILL CAN.

MY DEAR NAVI...
IS FOR ME TO MERGE WITH YOU. ONCE I DO, MY RESURRECTION AS THE DARK DRAGON KING WILL BE COMPLETE.
I'M MORE THAN HALFWAY TO HAVING CONTROL OF ECO'S BODY.
ALL THAT REMAINS...
OH MY!
ARE YOU SAYING YOU WANT TO GOBBLE ME UP?
YOU'RE NO SIMPLE NAVIGATOR, ARE YOU?
YOU'RE THE DRAGONWEISS ITSELF...!
WELL, NOW.
SOME-BODY'S DONE THEIR RESEARCH.
AND I HAVE THE RIGHT TO MERGE WITH YOU AND GAIN YOUR VAST WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE...
HAVE I NOT?

I CAN'T DENY THAT YOU DO.
IN WHICH CASE--
BUT...
I THINK I'LL DECLINE.
I'VE THROWN MY SUPPORT TO THE AVALON SIDE.
ESPECIALLY ITS KNIGHT, ASH BLAKE.
AFTER ALL, HE'S VASTLY SUPERIOR TO YOU.
AND DOESN'T EVERYONE WANT TO CHOOSE WHO THEY'LL BECOME ONE WITH?
BESIDES, LET'S JUST SAY THAT I'M QUITE AWARE YOU'VE TAKEN THAT FORM OUT OF CONVENIENCE.

Zrrrk!
HMPH! WELL, AREN'T YOU A SLY LITTLE VIXEN?
WILL YOU SUBMIT MORE READILY IF I'M WEARING THIS SHAPE I *LOATHE* WHILE I BREAK YOU?
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE VULGAR.

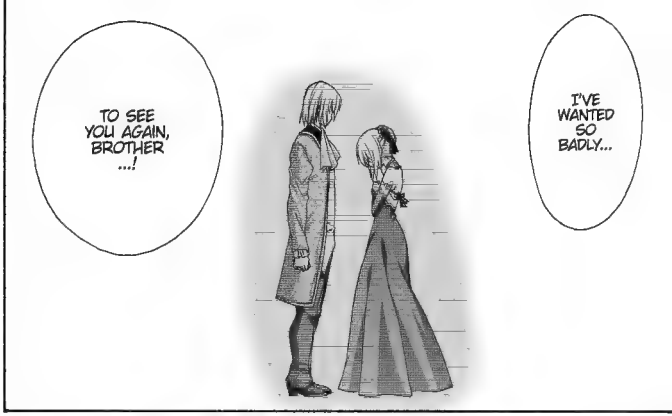
SYLVIA!
WE FOUND YOU!!


THE CASTLE --?
IT'S UNDAMAGED. AND WE HAVE OTHER THINGS TO DISCUSS. LOOK.

SISTER --!
SIR GLENN !!

STEP
!!
HUH?! MILGAUSS ?!

WAIT...
UH...
A-ARE YOU --?
I'M DEEPLY SORRY FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH BECAUSE OF ME.
.....
YES.
I KNOW YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE ME, BUT I AM JULIUS RIGHT NOW.
.....!!
I KNOW...
THAT LOOK...
AND THAT KIND TONE...!


I'VE WANTED SO BADLY...
TO SEE YOU AGAIN, BROTHER ...!

BUT FOR NOW, CHIN UP.

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU TOO.

PRINCESS...

UM, YEAH?
I- I MEAN, YES?!
ASH.

Y-YES.
YOU MEAN ECO, DON'T YOU?
THE DARK DRAGON KING MORDRED...
HAS TAKEN POSSESSION OF HER PHYSICAL BODY.

THERE'S MUCH THAT I NEED TO TELL YOU.
BUT THAT HAS TO WAIT TOO.
THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS AT HAND. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

I...
I WANT TO GO SAVE ECO.
CLENCH

THE DARK DRAGON KING...?
SO, THAT'S WHOSE NINE EYES INVADED ECO'S NIGHT-MARES...!!

THAT'S THE SPIRIT--
.....!!
GRRRRAAH!!

VWOOMM
VWOOOOOMMM
!!!
IF THAT HAD HIT THE CITY--!
HURRY!! WE HAVE TO GET TO ECO!!!

BUT HOW?!
FIRST, WE NEED TO GET THERE!!
LET ME WORRY ABOUT THAT!
PRINCESS VERONICA!
AND... PRINCE JULIUS ...?!
HOW --?!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, EVERYONE.
AND...
REACH
I DO APOLOGIZE FOR THIS, AS I'VE JUST RETURNED, BUT...

MUTTER
WHAT ARE YOU--?!
I WANT TO KEEP CASUALTIES TO AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM.
I NEED EVERYONE BUT ASH TO DISEMBARK IMMEDIATELY.
THAT ORDER GOES FOR EVERYONE. YOU TOO, VERONICA.
DO YOU REALLY EXPECT ME TO SMILE SWEETLY AND GO ALONG WITH THIS NONSENSE?
.....
I'D RATHER NOT STOOP SO LOW, BUT... IF I CAN'T COUNT ON YOUR COOPERATION...
?!
WHAT SECRET?
I'M AFRAID I'LL HAVE TO BETRAY A CERTAIN SECRET YOU KEEP VERY CLOSE.

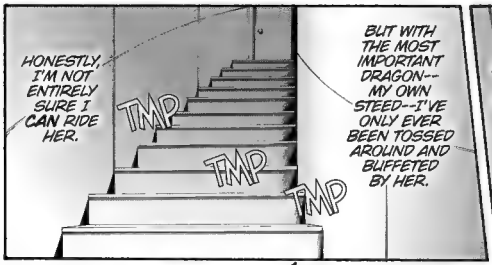
THE EXACT CONTENTS OF A ROOM BELONGING TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE WHO DOTES EXCESSIVELY ON SYLVIA.
THINGS LIKE SYLVIA'S MEASUREMENT CHARTS, HER OUTGROWN CLOTHING... A LIFE-SIZED DOLL...
!!!
AND THIS SOMEONE MAY HAVE EVEN COMPOSED POETRY IN SYLVIA'S HONOR...
STOP! QUIET! YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT!!
S-SISTER...?
BLUSH
BUT REMEMBER THAT THE SILVANUS IS MINE.
HE'S LEFT US NO CHOICE.
EVERY-ONE OFF THE SHIP! NOW!
I EXPECT YOU TO TAKE GREAT CARE WITH HER.
WHY, SISTER.
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT ME?

TURN
OH, PLEASE!
I'M WORRIED ONLY FOR MY SHIP!
MOVE, ALL OF YOU!!
PLEASE BE CAREFUL, ASH.
WILL DO.
GRAAAAR
I'VE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, ASH.
I KNOW IT'S A LOT TO TAKE IN.
SO THAT'S THE STORY.
IT IS.
BUT TO THINK ECO IS THE DRAGON TRIBE'S IMPERIAL PRINCESS ...!
FOR THE MOST PART, SHE'S A FOOD-OBSESSED SLEEPYHEAD, BUT--

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL.
I WAS CONSUMED WITH WORRY AND QUESTIONS WHEN I FIRST LEARNED THAT MY STEED WAS DESCENDED FROM THE NEHALENNIA.
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALMOST COMPLETELY TAKEN OVER ECO'S BODY, DOESN'T IT?
BUT OTHER THAN THAT ONE BURST OF BREATH SHE UNLEASHED, SHE HASN'T MADE A MOVE.
I GATHER THAT NAVI IS THE DRAGONWEISS ITSELF.
WHAT?!
HOW'S THAT, NOW?!
BECAUSE OF NAVI.
I SUSPECT NAVI IS INSIDE ECO RIGHT NOW, RESISTING MORDRED.
IN ORDER FOR MORDRED'S RESURRECTION TO BE COMPLETE...
HE HAS TO MERGE WITH THE DRAGONWEISS AND TAKE IN ALL THE KNOWLEDGE SHE CONTAINS.

WHILE HE PURSUES NAVI, YOU NEED TO RIDE ECO AND HELP HER CONSCIOUSNESS REASSERT ITSELF! UNDERSTAND?!
Y-YES!!!

UNTIL THEN, HE CAN'T FULLY POSSESS ECO. AND WHAT'S MORE...
WITH NAVI OCCUPYING SO MUCH OF HIS ATTENTION RIGHT NOW, WE'LL NEVER HAVE A BETTER TIME TO TAKE ACTION!


HONESTLY, I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE I CAN RIDE HER.
TMP
TMP
TMP
BUT WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT DRAGON-- MY OWN STEED--I'VE ONLY EVER BEEN TOSSED AROUND AND BUFFETED BY HER.

AT THIS POINT, I'VE RIDDEN A LOT OF DRAGONS...
KROOONK
BECAUSE MY GIFT MAKES THEM ALL LISTEN TO ME.

SO THERE'S EVEN MORE PRESSURE TO DEAL WITH.
ゴオオオ
WHOOSH
AND NOW I KNOW THAT SHE'S THE DRAGON TRIBE'S PRINCESS...

BUT...
IF NOT, THEN GET IT TOGETHER, ASH BLAKE!!!
DO YOU WANT MORDRED TO STEAL HER AWAY?!

!!
GLARE
YES, SIR!!!
YOU'RE GOOD TO GO WHENEVER, ASH!!
GIVEN HER SIZE, THE ONLY PLACE I CAN RIDE SAFELY IS ON HER HEAD.
VWOOOOMM
DAMN --!!!

STOP IT! DON'T THINK ABOUT THINGS LIKE THAT!!
FLAP
FROM THIS HEIGHT, IF MY PARACHUTE DOESN'T OPEN PROPERLY...
YOU NEED TO HURRY, ASH!!
I KNOW!!
HERE I GO !!!
LEAP
STOP THAT, ECO!!
GRRROOAR

WOOOOOM
PRINCE JULIUS --!!!
MILGALISS ONCE...
VRRRRR

GO...
CALLED YOU A "POOR IMITATION," BUT...
LIFT
I BELIEVE YOU'RE THE GENUINE ARTICLE-- THE TRUE KNIGHT OF AVALON!!
ASH BLAKE!!!
FWAAAH
OHHH...
CRAAAP --!!!
ドオオン
KA-BROOSH

ECOOOOO!!!
JOLT
OHHH, COME ON!
CLANK
CLANK
WHERE THE HECK AM I?!
ASH ...?!
IS THAT YOU!?

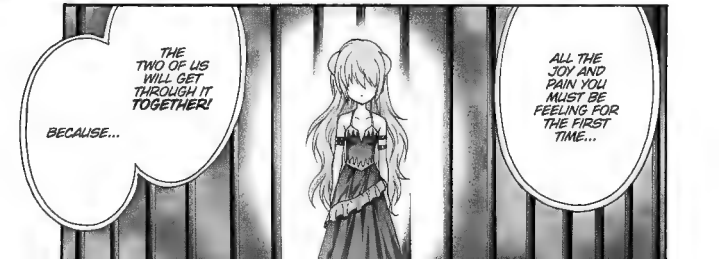
I CAN'T SEE A THING!
AND SOMEBODY DRESSED ME IN THIS HORRIBLE OUTFIT...!
GOODNESS! EVEN IN A PREDICAMENT LIKE THIS, YOU'RE FULL OF ENERGY!
NAVI ?!
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU.

REACH
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
!
OH, YOU KNOW... MORDRED AND I WERE JUST PLAYING A LITTLE.
MOR-DRED?
FWIIIII
OH... I SEE.
SO RIGHT THIS SECOND, MORDRED'S TRYING TO TAKE OVER MY BODY?
YES.
YOU'LL RETAIN A BIT OF CONTROL AS LONG AS I STAY A STEP AHEAD...
BUT WITH THINGS AS THEY ARE, HE COULD ALREADY USE YOU TO DESTROY THE CAPITAL.

Hee!
I'M JUST THINKING THAT I'M AN AMAZING DRAGON AFTER ALL, AREN'T I?
WHAT IS IT?
OH...
.....
I THOUGHT I'D BE NOTHING WITHOUT ASH. SO SILLY, HUH?
I'VE BEEN THINKING AS IF I'M MUCH SMALLER THAN I AM.
.....
NO AMOUNT OF POWER IS ENOUGH TO MAKE A DRAGON FEEL TRULY COMPLETE.
THE THING IS...

THE THING THAT ALLOWS A DRAGON TO TRULY GROW IS...
WHEN THEY FIRST EXPERIENCE THE SENSATION OF BEING DEEPLY CONNECTED TO THEIR MASTER.
HIM... ON MY BACK...?
HAVE YOU NEVER FELT THE DESIRE TO HAVE HIM RIDE YOU?
WHEN THEY... FIRST...?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I'M SAYING? UNLIKE OTHER DRAGONS, YOU'VE NEVER ONCE ALLOWED YOUR MASTER TO RIDE ON YOUR BACK.
TH-THAT'S ...!
WHIRL
Bang!

I KNOW YOU'VE NEVER BEEN IN THIS FORM BEFORE, SO YOU'RE PROBABLY A LITTLE FREAKED OUT RIGHT NOW...
BUT IT'S ALL GOING TO BE FINE!
I'M RIGHT HERE WITH YOU...!
ECO ...!
ECO, HOLD ON! I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU!


THE TWO OF US WILL GET THROUGH IT TOGETHER!
BECAUSE...
ALL THE JOY AND PAIN YOU MUST BE FEELING FOR THE FIRST TIME...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHY AM I CRYING ...?
YOU'RE MY STEED!
I... I WANT HIM TO RIDE ME.
WHAT IS IT...?
AND THIS FEELING THAT'S PRESSING INSIDE MY CHEST...

RIGHT THIS MOMENT ...!
I WANT HIM...

TO BE ON MY BACK, WHERE HE BELONGS !!!

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

I BET I SEEM LIKE AN INSIGNIFICANT PEST TO YOU, BUT...
Chapter XXXIII
Bond
GLARE
SHAKE
YIKES ?!
A FATAL MISTAKE FOR YOU, MORDRED ...!!
DISMISSING ME LIKE THAT WILL BE...

GLINT
MORDRED'S VASTLY MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OTHER DRAGON I'VE RIDDEN!!
THIS IS BAD! I'M GONNA GET TOSSED OFF!
GRRRH --?!
GYAAAAARRRR!!
!!!

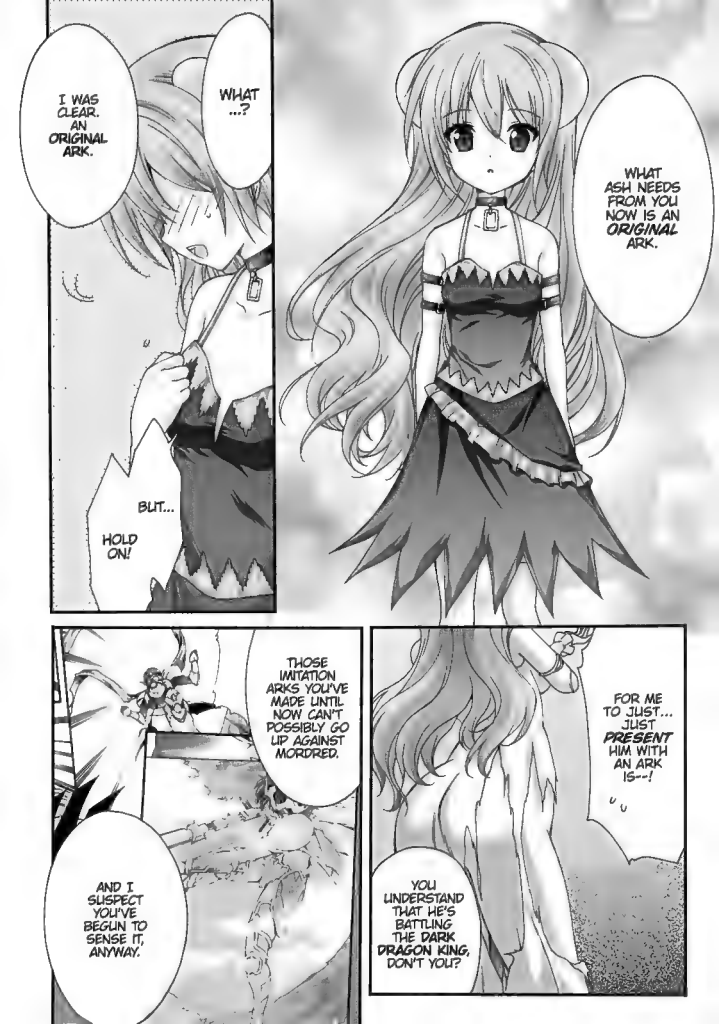
I SEE!
THE MAESTROS HAVE GONE INTO FORMATION AND ARE USING CHAINS OF LIGHT AS RESTRAINTS--!
YOU GUYS CAN'T FORGIVE MORDRED FOR TAINTING ECO...
ANY MORE THAN I CAN, HUH?
ASH!!
HURRY !!
HOP ON!!!

LUCCA !!
GAWAIN !!!
NOD
GUUUUHH!!
HEH! SO YOU'RE TELLING ME...
TO HOP ON TOO, HUH?
I HAPPENED TO BE RIGHT THERE, SO I MOUNTED AS GAWAIN WAS TAKING OFF.
ALL THE MAESTROS AT THE ACADEMY TOOK TO THE AIR AT ONCE.
BUT WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?!
THANKS!

BUT OTHER RIDERS WEREN'T ABLE TO DO THE SAME.
LOOK UP, ASH.
I SEE.
REBECCA'S CUCHULAINN IS OVER-HEAD...
WITH SO MANY OTHER DRAGONS!
YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE.
YOU'RE RIGHT!
I'M DEFINITELY BRINGING ECO BACK!
OH NO! WE'RE BEING ATTACKED!!
!!
MAGIC CANNONS, --?!

INSIDE THE DRAGON'S WORKSHOP...
GAH!
STUPID MORDRED!!
AND.. THE SHAPE THEY'VE TAKEN...
LOOKS LIKE IT'S BASED ON THE DESIGN OF MY AEGIS...?
EVEN IN THAT CONDITION, THEY'RE SHOOTING AT US?!
FWOOOM
ASH, UP THERE!
THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM--!

IF THEY'RE EVEN GRAZED BY THOSE MAGIC CANNONS, THEY'LL BE THROWN.
AND THE TIMING IS HORRIBLE, SINCE YOU JUST DECIDED TO LET ASH RIDE YOU.
WHAT THE HECK IS HE DOING OUT THERE WITH MY BODY AND MAGIC?!
OH, THIS ISN'T GOOD.
I NEED YOU TO CREATE AN ARK FOR HIM, QUICKLY.
!
OH NO--- RIGHT NOW?!
BUT...WHAT SHOULD I MODEL IT ON?! WHAT ATTRIBUTES SHOULD I GIVE IT?!
.....
NO, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.


WHAT ASH NEEDS FROM YOU NOW IS AN ORIGINAL ARK.
WHAT ...?
I WAS CLEAR. AN ORIGINAL ARK.
BUT... HOLD ON!
FOR ME TO JUST... JUST PRESENT HIM WITH AN ARK IS--!
YOU UNDERSTAND THAT HE'S BATTLING THE DARK DRAGON KING, DON'T YOU?
THOSE IMITATION ARKS YOU'VE MADE UNTIL NOW CAN'T POSSIBLY GO UP AGAINST MORDRED.
AND I SUSPECT YOU'VE BEGUN TO SENSE IT, ANYWAY.

M-MAYBE I HAVE FELT IT, BUT...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN CREATE AN ORIGINAL ARK--!
I CAN'T EVEN VISUALIZE THE BASIC SHAPE...
AND I'D HAVE TO MAKE A UNIQUE ARK WEAPON, TOO.
OH NO..
THE FORM ISN'T WHAT MATTERS.
YOU KNOW DEEP INSIDE THAT IT'S TIME.

IF YOU HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM, THE ARK WILL COME INTO BEING.
MY FEELINGS ...?
AN ARK'S TRUE STRENGTH...
IS DETERMINED BY THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FEELINGS.
I...I DO FEEL SOME-THING...
FEEL-INGS... FOR HIM...
BUT WHENEVER I THINK ABOUT HOW I FEEL, MY CHEST GETS SO TIGHT. IT'S TERRIBLE!
AND EVEN ASKING THE DRAGONWEISS DOESN'T HELP ME FIGURE IT OUT--!

SHFFF
THAT'S BECAUSE EMOTIONS AREN'T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE ENTERED INTO THE DRAGON-WEISS.
!
FEELINGS CAN'T BE LEARNED FROM SOMEONE ELSE.
HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF.
YOU'LL BE ABSOLUTELY FINE.
THE BLOOD OF AVALON RUNS THROUGH YOUR VEINS, REMEMBER?
GLOOOW

NOT THAT I MUCH CARE FOR YOUR ATTITUDE OR APPEARANCE, ESPECIALLY THOSE POINTLESSLY GIGANTIC BOOBS...
BUT... RIGHT NOW, I CHOOSE TO BELIEVE YOU.

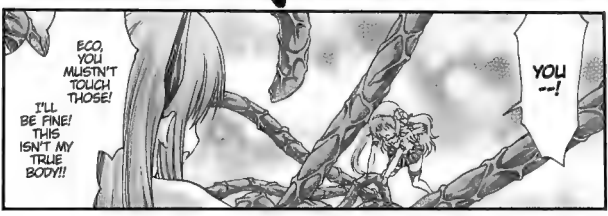
I SHOULD HAVE SAID SO SOONER...
RATTLE
RATTLE
BUT YOU'RE REALLY INCREDIBLE, AREN'T YOU?
TEE HEE!

WHY, THANK YOU.
HEE!

SHLIP
!!
NOT SO FAST.

NAVI --!!
TH...
THAT'S --!!!
IT'S BEEN A LONG, LONG TIME...
AVALON.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE!
BUT... YOU HAVE A HUMAN FORM, LIKE ME?!
THIS IS ONLY HOW I CHOOSE TO APPEAR RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT A PATHETIC LITTLE WRETCH LIKE YOU, BORN INTO A BODY TOO WEAK AND VULNERABLE FOR COMBAT!
I'M AFRAID I WAS CARE-LESS.
HA! DID YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD EVADE ME FOREVER, NAVI?

NOW IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO SUBMIT TO ME.
NGH ...!
SQUEEZE


YOU --!
ECO, YOU MUSTN'T TOUCH THOSE!
I'LL BE FINE! THIS ISN'T MY TRUE BODY!!

GRAB
YOU LET NAVI GO THIS INSTANT!!
DART
OR ELSE I'LL STOMP YOU FLAT!!
WELL, LOOK AT THAT.
I SEE YOUR HUMAN FORM DOESN'T PREVENT YOU FROM MANIFESTING YOUR POWER!
HOW-EVER...
SWSHH
!!
THE FACT OF YOUR YOUTH REMAINS.
YOU DON'T YET HAVE FINE CONTROL OVER YOUR SPIRIT BODY.

SO...
I'LL JUST BREAK YOU BOTH IN AT ONCE.
HOW DARE YOU --?!
ECO!!
ASH ...!
REMEMBER WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!
FIGHTING ISN'T WHAT YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON...!

I'LL SAVE YOU...
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
JUST LIKE YOU'VE ALWAYS SAVED ME.
I CAN HEAR...
WHAT HE'S THINK-ING!!
HAVING YOU WITH ME LETS ME GET SO MUCH STRONGER ...!
I... I FEEL THE SAME WAY.
BEING WITH YOU IS WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE.

BUT ALL THAT ASIDE...
DON'T YOU THINK...
YOU STILL NEED MY ORIGINAL ARK.
THAT'S MORE THAN YOU DESERVE, SILLY ASH?!
SUM-MONING AN ARK ...?
.....!
WHAT NON-SENSE!
YOU SHOULD BE... CONCERNED FOR YOURSELF, NOT HIM!

MORDRED...
YOU'RE RIGHT-- I AM STILL YOUNG!
BUT I'M UNQUESTION-ABLY YOUR BETTER IN ONE WAY!
YOU DON'T HAVE...
A RIDER!
.....
A RIDER?! THAT BOND?!!
BWOOOSH
A DRAGON HAS NO NEED OF THOSE THINGS!
IF I SUBDUE YOUR SPIRIT FORM AND CLAIM NAVI FOR MYSELF...
GLEE
NNNH!
IT WON'T MATTER IN THE LEAST IF YOUR MASTER HAS AN ARK!!

TCH ....!
A... Almete ...!
Gor... jal...
YOU'RE STILL STRUG-GLING, HMM?
WHY GO TO THE EFFORT? ONCE YOUR BODY IS MINE, YOUR PRECIOUS ARK WILL VANISH INTO THIN AIR.
Bra-foner...
AH --!!
SQUEEZE
NGH ...!!

CHOOSING TO WASTE YOUR STRENGTH ON A MERE HUMAN RIGHT TO THE END, RATHER THAN OFFERING ME AN ACTUAL CHALLENGE?
HOW YOU BORE ME, AVALON.
YOU WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
IF ANYONE'S DEPRAVED, IT'S YOU, FOR RELYING ON SUCH A WORTHLESS CREATURE!!
YOU'RE UNWORTHY OF BEING MY RIVAL!
I'LL SEAL YOU AWAY HERE FOR ALL ETERNITY, YOU PITIFUL EXCUSE FOR A DRAGON!!!

I DARE YOU...
TO SAY THOSE THINGS TO HER AGAIN, MORDRED.
THAT VOICE...

CRACK
MY BARRIER ...?!!
YOU INSULTED MY STEED.

IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, YOU'D BETTER DO IT NOW!!
KRIIISH

IF YOU'RE GOING TO APOLOGIZE, YOU'D BETTER DO IT NOW!!

NO WAR

KRIIISH

ASH BLAKE...! HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE?!
WITH HELP FROM LUCCA AND THE OTHERS.
I GUIDED HIM HERE ONCE BEFORE WITH GAWAIN.
SO I LED HIM BACK AGAIN, THAT'S ALL.
HIS PHYSICAL BODY IS STILL WITH LUCCA.
SO HE'S HERE, BUT WITHOUT AN ARK.
SO AVALON'S SUMMONING FAILED--
WAIT ...!!
UWWMMM
WHAT ...?!
HIS STAR MARK --!!!

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S AN ARK OR NOT.
BUT... I CAN FEEL IT THROB-BING RIGHT THROUGH ME.
IT'S TELLING ME...
TO PROTECT YOU...
WITH ALL MY STRENGTH, ECO!!!
FWOOOM

WHEN A KNIGHT, A PRINCESS, AND A DRAGON ARE ASSEMBLED...
SLLLSH
WELCOME, KNIGHT OF AVALON.
A TALE...
CAN BE WOVEN.

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

THIS IS LUDICROUS.
A HUMAN CHALLENGING A DRAGON WITHOUT EVEN THE PROTECTION OF AN ARK...?!
Chapter XXXIV
The Knight of Avalon

FWOOSH
SLASH
ASH !!
THIS MAY BE YOUR SPIRIT BODY...
BUT THAT WOUND SHOULD HAVE DONE PLENTY OF DAMAGE TO YOUR PHYSICAL BODY TOO--

IMPOS-
SIBLE!!
HOW COULD YOU BLOCK MY CLAWS WITHOUT ARMOR?!
I'D PROBABLY BE IN A LOT OF TROUBLE... IF YOU'D ACTUALLY CUT ME.
GOOD TO KNOW.
YOU POURED YOUR WHOLE HEART INTO YOUR SUMMONING SPELL.
THE STRENGTH OF YOUR FEELINGS IS ARMORING HIM. IT HASN'T TAKEN SHAPE YET, THAT'S ALL.
IT'S... LIKE HE'S WEARING AN ARK.
BECAUSE HE IS.

WHAT'S PROTECTING ASH...
IS AN ARK WITHOUT FORM.
YOU LITTLE --!
BUT AN ARK IS STILL NOTHING BUT A PATHETIC THING CREATED BY CONSORTING WITH HUMANS!!
YOU'VE SQUANDERED YOUR POWER ON SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T DESERVE PROTECTION!!
IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO THE TRUE STRENGTH OF A DRAGON!!
VOOOOM

FLASH
THIS IS NO ORDINARY ARK!
I'LL REND YOU LIMB FROM LIMB...
ECO PRESENTED IT TO ME OF HER OWN FREE WILL...!
FWOOOM
IT'S A TRUE ARK!!!
ASH BLAKE !!!
WHAT ...?!
THE BASTARD'S ARMED, TOO?
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE ?!

HE'S BEARING AN ARK WEAPON ...?!!
FWROOO
YOU'RE FACING...
THE TREASURED BLADE OF AVALON, PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE AGES.
IT'S LIKEWISE STILL SEARCHING FOR ITS SHAPE...
BUT IT'S THE GLORIOUS WEAPON THAT ONLY THE KNIGHT OF AVALON CAN WIELD.
MOR-DRED...
!

YOUR LEFT HAND IS COLD-- LIKE ONE OF THE EMPIRE'S ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.
WHAT HAPPENED TO IT, HUH?
TCH ...!
THOSE THINGS REPLACE A LOST LIMB, RIGHT?
SO I'M THINKING YOU SURVIVED PRINCE JULIUS AND HIS STEED'S ATTEMPT ON YOUR LIFE...
BUT YOU DIDN'T ESCAPE UNSCATHED!
SILENCE!!
WHAM
I'LL SEND YOU TO JOIN THEM IN HELL!!
THE PRINCE'S THOUGHTS ARE WITH ME RIGHT NOW.
SO ARE ECO'S... AND NAVI'S.
THE PRINCESS, LUCCA, EVERYONE ELSE...

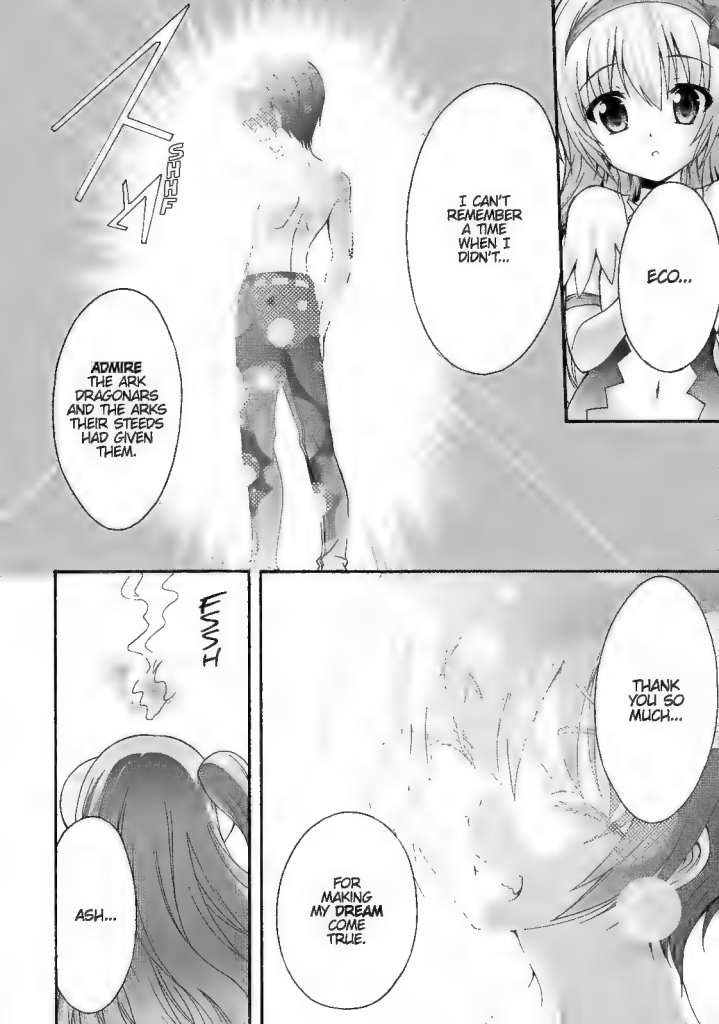
SLASH
AS THE KNIGHT OF AVALON!!!
!!!
THE PALADIN HIMSELF, AND THE KNIGHTDOM THAT RECOGNIZED ME AS A DRAGONAR, AND THE PEOPLE OF ANSULLIVAN--THEIR THOUGHTS ARE ALL WITH ME!
AND I'LL PROTECT THEM ALL...

!!!
THE PALADIN HIMSELF, AND THE KNIGHTDOM THAT RECOGNIZED ME AS A DRAGONAR, AND THE PEOPLE OF ANSULLIVAN--THEIR THOUGHTS ARE ALL WITH ME!
AND I'LL PROTECT THEM ALL...

SLASH
AS THE KNIGHT OF AVALON!!!

YWOOOO
NNNGH ...!
IS IT OVER?
NO, NOT YET.
MORDRED FLED.
OH NO...
YAYOO
AT ANY RATE, IT SEEMS THAT IF WE WANT TO DESTROY MORDRED ONCE AND FOR ALL...
CUTTING DOWN HIS SPIRIT BODY WON'T BE ENOUGH.

LEAVE IT TO ME.
I PROMISE I'LL PROTECT YOU.
DON'T WORRY, ECO.
SHUDDER
WE'LL NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PHYSICAL BODY AS WELL.
NAVI...
COULD YOU SEND ME BACK TO THE PHYSICAL WORLD NOW?
OF COURSE.
I'LL REMEMBER.
NEVER FORGET FOR A MOMENT THAT YOU CAN PROTECT THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS OF AVALON.
BUT FIRST, LISTEN CLOSELY. BEING ABLE TO WIELD THAT MOST PRECIOUS BLADE MARKS YOU AS A TRUE KNIGHT.


I CAN'T REMEMBER A TIME WHEN I DIDN'T...
ECO...
ADMIRE THE ARK DRAGONARS AND THE ARKS THEIR STEEDS HAD GIVEN THEM.
FOR MAKING MY DREAM COME TRUE.
THANK YOU SO MUCH...
ASH...
FLASH

I BELIEVE...
IN YOU.
BROTHER ...!
ANSWER US! WHERE ARE YOU?!
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN ...?
WE ONLY JUST GOT HIM BACK, AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
DON'T FRET, SYLVIE.

HMPH! I WAS JUST THINKING I HADN'T SEEN YOU RECENTLY, GLENN.
I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS, HIGHNESS.
YOU'RE ALL RIGHT ...!!
I HAVE TO SAY, GLENN WAS THE LAST PERSON I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED...
TO IGNORE VERONICA'S ORDERS AND REMAIN ON STANDBY.

I ADMIT THINGS WOULD HAVE ENDED BADLY IF MY STEED HADN'T REACHED US IN TIME WHEN I CALLED FOR HELP.
MY VERY FIRST ACT OF DISOBEDIENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN MY LAST.

HAS ECO MADE ANY KIND OF MOVE?!
I'VE BEEN GETTING THE IMPRESSION SHE'S BEEN IN SOME PAIN FOR A WHILE.
!!
UP THERE! LOOK --!!
THAT'S ...
ASH !!!

JUST BE PATIENT A LITTLE LONGER.
I'LL BE RIDING YOU SOON.
GRROOAR!
ECO...

YOU'RE NOT A THREAT ANYMORE.
KA-BOOM
IT'S USELESS, MORDRED.
I HAVE TO CUT IT DOWN!!
AND THERE'S ONLY ONE THING...
Forged of steel that cuts through anything in your path...
THAT CAN HELP ME DO THAT...!
Thy name is Excalibur !!!
IN ORDER TO PROTECT ECO AND THE CITY...
O holy sword, wielded by a knight among knights...
I NEED TO PROTECT EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE!

HYAAAAAH!!!
VWOOOM
SLASH

VVVOOOM
HYAAAAAAH!!!
SLASH

W-WAIT ...!
DAUGHTER OF AVALON OR NO, IF YOU CUT ME DOWN, SHE MAY NOT--
FWSSSH
HOW UNSEEMLY OF YOU...
DARK DRAGON KING.

ECO...
IT'S ALMOST OVER.
JUST HOLD ON.
SLASH
NOOOOOO!!!

SLICE

SLICE

GRAAAARGH?!!
TH-THMP
I... I FEEL...
ASH --!
AH...
YOU FEEL IT, DON'T YOU?
RIGHT WHERE YOU'RE MOST SENSITIVE.

THAT SWEET SENSA-TION...
.....
ECO?
ASH...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HMM?
BECAUSE, WELL... YOUR HORN...
OH!

W-WELL, I... UM...
?
HUH?
O-OH, PLEASE. THAT'LL GROW RIGHT BACK IN NO TIME!
AND... AND BESIDES...
IT WAS...SO WONDER-FUL.
IT...
WHISPER
WH-WHAT? YOU LIKED IT TOO?
WHY?
YEAH, IT REALLY WAS, HUH?
WELL, THE CITY DIDN'T TAKE ANY MAJOR DAMAGE!
DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN THAT!
.....
R-RIGHT.

I HAVE BEEN UTTERLY DEFEATED.
MORDRED ?!
YOU'VE NAUGHT TO FEAR.
I HAVE ONLY A SPIRIT FORM NOW, AND CAN'T DIRECTLY AFFECT ANYTHING.
BUT YOU'RE QUITE SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU? STRIKING AT A DRAGON'S PLEASURE CENTER IN ORDER TO SUPPRESS THE IMPERIAL PRINCESS' POWERS...!
ECO IS MY STEED.
HMM... BUT HERE'S SOMETHING YOU MAY NOT KNOW.
FLAP
LET'S SAY IT WAS A VULNERABILITY ONLY I KNOW HOW TO BREACH.
WHAT YOU CUT DOWN AT THE DRAGON'S WORKSHOP WAS A PART OF ME AS WELL.

SHOOM
I'VE GOTTA SAY, I'D RATHER NOT EVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
BECAUSE...
I'LL NEVER BECOME A DRAGON SLAYER.
ASH BLAKE.
I WILL NOT FORGET YOU...

I WILL NOT FORGET YOU...

SHOOOM
I'VE GOTTA SAY, I'D RATHER NOT EVER SEE YOU AGAIN.
BECAUSE...
I'LL NEVER BECOME A DRAGON SLAYER.
ASH BLAKE.

THAT'S WHY...
DRAGONS AND HUMANS ARE PARTNERS!
I'M THE KNIGHT OF AVALON.
to be continued.

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

Bonus ①

HEY, ECO?
That's walking around completely naked again...
WHAT IS IT, DOG?
I-I WAS THINKING ABOUT WHEN YOU'RE OLDER, AND-- HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK YOU'LL GROW?
WHA ?!
I MEAN, YOU'RE STILL A YOUNG DRAGON, RIGHT?
So, in theory, you should get bigger.
Ugh, I don't know where to look
I...I SHOULD...

YOU JUST REMINDED ME OF SOMETHING UNPLEASANT.
COME HERE, DOG! I WANT YOUR HELP WITH SOMETHING.
HUH?
BUT... HOW MUCH, HUH?
GRRR...
OF COURSE, NOT EVERYTHING MAY TURN OUT AS EXPECTED... ESPECIALLY IN THE CHEST REGION.

COSETTE SAID IF I DO THIS, THEY'LL GET BIGGER!
H-HEY!
ECO--!!
NGH...!
KEEP GOING!
KEEP QUIET AND DON'T STOP!!
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF GROWTH I WAS ASKING ABOUT!
ACK!

BUT THE THING IS...
.....
THE MORNING'S USUAL GREETING!
THE SOONER YOU START DOING YOUR BEST WITH THAT LITTLE PROBLEM, THE BETTER.
IN YOUR CASE...
STUDENT MASCOT ECO!
WHY ON EARTH IS A MASCOT FUSSING SO MUCH ABOUT THAT?
GOOD HEAVENS
SHE'S SO CUTE...
THIS PROBLEM GOES BEYOND THE SIZE OF MY BREASTS --!!
GAH!

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

YEAH!
I'M A COUNTRY BUMPKIN, SO YOU'RE THE ONLY EKBLATTIAN I'VE EVER MET.
SO I CAN'T HELP WONDERING HOW YOUR EARS ARE DIFFERENT FROM OURS.
.....
YOU'RE CURIOUS ABOUT EKBLATTIAN EARS...?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TOUCH THEM?
HUH ?!
BUT...!

Bonus ②

KYEEK!
THAT'S FINE! GAWAIN LIKES YOU.
HUH?

?
W-WELL, IT'S JUST... GAWAIN'S GOT HIS EYE ON US!

IF YOU REALLY DON'T MIND...
WELL...
GLEE
GLEE
SQUEEZE
LICK
NNH...
WOW!
THEY'RE WAY SOFTER THAN I EXPECTED.
!

WHAT ...?
I FEEL SO... STRANGE...
TH-THMP
I DON'T KNOW WHY...
BUT WHEN I LOOK AT ASH...
I FEEL SO WARM ALL OVER.
AND MY CHEST...
TH-THMP
WHAT THE--?! WHY'D HE DO THAT?!
GAWAIN GOT ANGRY.
BUT WHY?! I THOUGHT YOU SAID HE LIKED ME!
LUNGE
YIKES!
.....

I HAVE NO IDEA.
THE TRUTH IS, HE GOT JEALOUS.
OH, WELL. NO BIG DEAL.
LOOKS LIKE HE PICKED UP ON HOW I'M STARTING TO BE ATTRACTED TO YOU.
SORRY ABOUT THAT, ASH.

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

星刻の竜騎士

Bonus ③

ANYA! I'M READY TO ORDER!
NOT THAT IT PLEASES ME AT ALL.
COMING!

THE MANAGER HERE...
SAYS I'M RATHER POPULAR.

AFTER ALL, I'M HERE COVERTLY...
TO UNCOVER ALL I CAN ABOUT ASH BLAKE...
AH... EXCUSE ME!!
AND THE YOUNG DRAGON ECO!
BAM
WAIT... HUH?!
BLANCH
UNCOVER...
ALL I... CAN...

I-I'M SO SORRY! WRONG ROOM...
M-MY STEED BROKE SOME PLATES, SO I'M WORKING OFF THE DAMAGES...!
THINK OF THE MISSION!
HUH...? WAIT-- HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
JOLT
Theatrical Blackout!
AWW, NEWBIES ARE SO CUTE.
I'LL LET IT SLIDE THIS TIME, OKAY? ♥
BUT GOSH, IT'S EMBARRASSING, SO...COULD YOU, UH, GO?
UGH, I CAN'T TAKE THIS MISSION ANY-- MORE!
RATTLE
But I got through it...
DID HE COME IN THROUGH THE WINDOW THIS TIME?!
CYAAAAH!
SERIOUSLY, WHAT THE HECK?!

WE'VE GOT A JOB.
I'VE COME TO FETCH YOU.
LET'S GO.
MILGAUSS ...!
I'LL ENDURE WHATEVER CHALLENGES I HAVE TO...
IF IT MEANS THAT...
I CAN STAY BY YOUR SIDE FOREVER.

DRAGONAR
ACADEMY

About Mordred's Human Appearance

Like Avdocha, my Mordred design is original to the manga. Both designs are pretty selfish, really, but Mordred is especially bad in that respect. *laughs*

Clothing is a separate issue, but I came up with Mordred's design by creating an anti-Eco. Mordred is much more exposed and flashy. To reinforce the "anti-Eco" element, I even drew Eco in a similar outfit at one point! I only noticed that there was a sort-of-human-form Mordred character in the source material after I came up with the manga design. *laughs*

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The flags (what flags?) have all been set out, and I look forward to seeing what Mordred does next. I'm sure Ash and company will encounter him again down the road.

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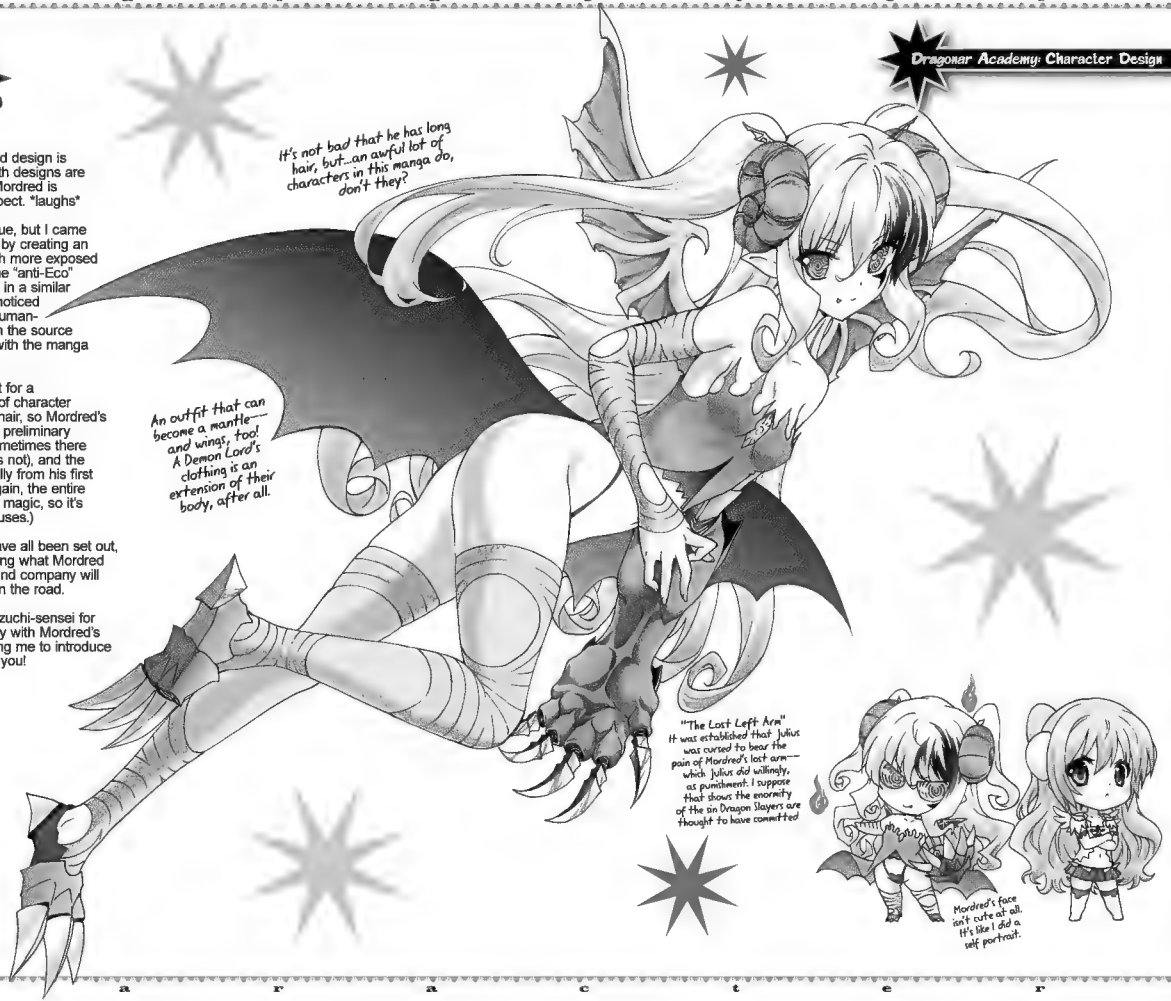
It's not bad that he has long hair, but...an awful lot of characters in this manga do, don't they?
An outfit that can become a mantle—and wings, too! A Demon Lord's clothing is an extension of their body, after all.
"The Lost Left Arm"
It was established that Julius was cursed to bear the pain of Mordred's lost arm—which Julius did willingly, as punishment. I suppose that shows the enormity of the sin Dragon Slayers are thought to have committed
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Dragonar Academy: Character Design

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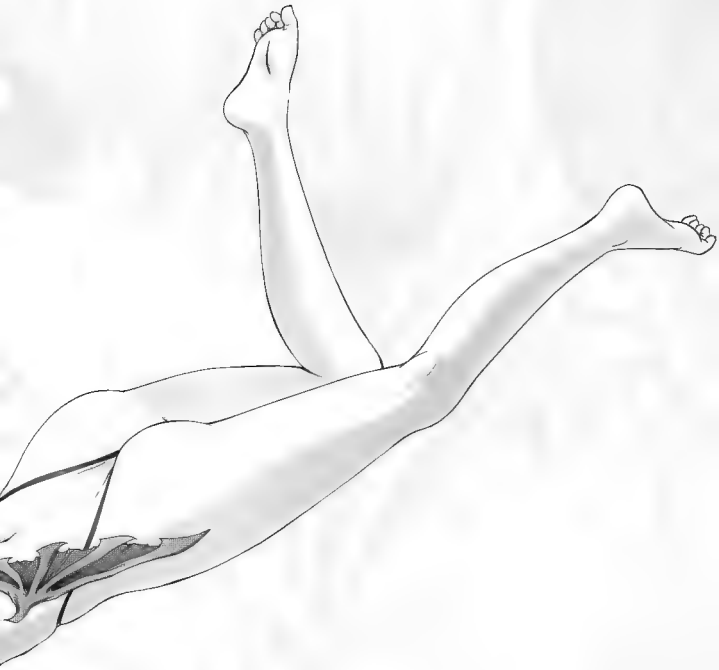
AFTERWORD

The Mordred Battle Arc has finally wrapped up, and Ash and the others are able to catch their breath for a little bit. But the story's going to continue, naturally!

As for Ash and Eco, their realization of how deeply bound to each other they are isn't an end at all, but a door to new developments!

I'll do my best to keep bringing the Dragonar world vividly to life, so I'd love it if you all keep reading as the manga continues!



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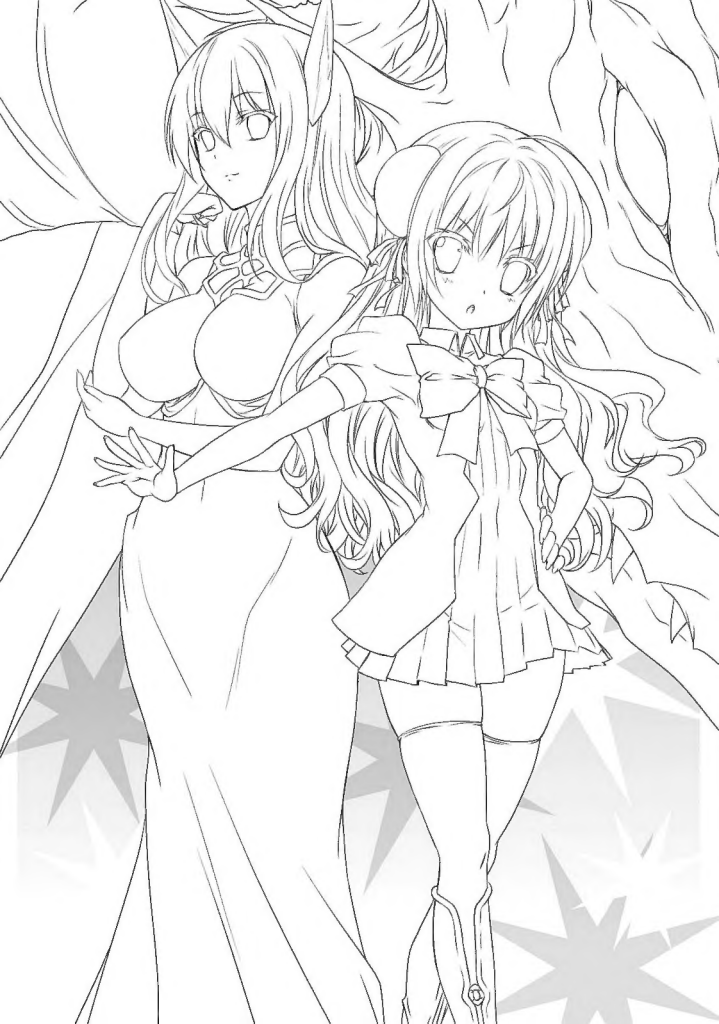
In the next volume...
KRRRCH
Having put an end to Mordred's malicious plot, Ash manages to rescue Eco.
FWOOO

Dragonar Academy Vol. 8
Coming Soon!
A new chapter begins in our tale of a beautiful dragon girl with the power to shape the course of history...!
The profound bond between a human and a dragon...
CE
At the end of it all, Ash and Eco are ready to go back to their peaceful daily life.



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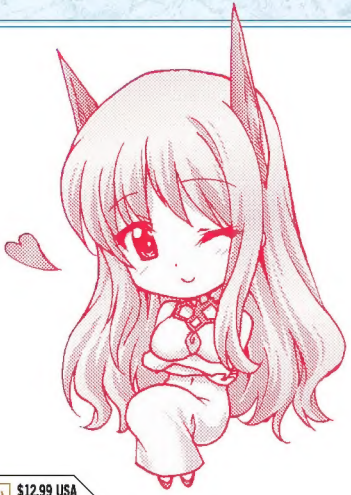
A DRAGON LAID BARE!

Thanks to the Zepharos Empire's machinations, Eco's long-hidden dragon form has finally been revealed as an unspeakably powerful dragon hovering over the city of Fontaine. As a struggle for control ensues between Eco and the spirit of Mordred, the truth about Mordred and Prince Julius's dark fate is about to come to light.



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